

Remarks/Arguments:

Applicants wish to thank the examiner for timely notice that some of the original claims are incorrectly numbered. Specifically, there is no original claim numbered "24," i.e., original claims 25-29 immediately follow original claim 23. Accordingly, as explained below, the claims are renumbered—by the instant amendment—to correct the error.

Claims 1-14, 18, and 20-28 (as renumbered hereby) are pending.

Claims 15-17 and 19 are cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Original claims 25-29 are renumbered, hereby, as claims 24-28, respectively. As indicated above, the claims are renumbered to correct the error by which no claim numbered "24" is found in the original claims, which error was carried over into the preliminary amendment filed together with the subject application.

Claim 14—an independent claim as originally presented—is amended, hereby, to be dependent on claim 1. Likewise, originally independent claim 18 is amended, *i.a.*, to be dependent on claim 1; thereby, making claims 21-24 (as renumbered) which are dependent on claim 18, also dependent on claim 1. Subject matter is cancelled from claim 18—in order to be made dependent on claim 1—without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1-28 (as renumbered) are subject to restriction under 35 USC 121. In view of renumbering the claims, hereby, invention Group III now includes claims 14-18 and 20-24—by virtue of renumbering Group III number claim 25 as claim 24; Group V now includes claims 25 and 26; Group VI now includes claim 27; and Group VII now includes claim 28.

Pursuant to the restriction requirement under 35 USC 121, election is made, hereby, to prosecute invention Group I, claims 1-7.

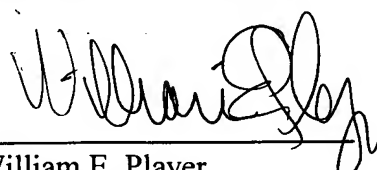
Present process claims 18 and 20-24 (as renumbered) which are included in invention Group III, are now dependent on claim 1, included among the claims of elected invention Group I. Therefore, according to the restriction requirement, upon allowance of product claim 1, process claims 18 and 20-24 (as renumbered) will be rejoined—with the claims of invention Group I—and examined.

Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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